

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1~~ An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier structured to carry an electrostatic latent image on its surface;

a liquid developer carrier which transports liquid developer toward a development position facing said image carrier while carrying said liquid developer on its surface, said liquid developer with charged toner dispersed in a carrier liquid; and

image forming means which applies a predetermined developing bias to said liquid developer carrier for causing said toner in said liquid developer carried on said liquid developer carrier to adhere to said image carrier, thereby developing said electrostatic latent image with said toner into a toner image,

wherein said image forming means forms a normal toner image under an image forming condition in which an adhesion amount of toner to said image carrier is substantially saturated relative to an increase of contrast potential,

wherein said image forming condition satisfies at least 2 of the following image forming conditions, said following image forming conditions being a high-density image forming

condition, an intermediate-density image forming condition and a low-density image forming condition:

said high-density image forming condition is a condition in which, in forming a solid image by causing said toner to adhere to said image carrier, a density of said solid image is substantially saturated relative to the increase in contrast potential;

said intermediate-density image forming condition is a condition in which, in forming an intermediate-density image including a hollow fine line or hollow discrete dots by causing said toner to adhere to said image carrier, a density of said intermediate-density image is substantially saturated relative to the increase in contrast potential; and

said low-density image forming condition is a condition in which, in forming a low-density image including a fine line or discrete dots by causing said toner to adhere to said image carrier, a density of said low-density image is substantially saturated relative to the increase in contrast potential.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1~~An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier structured to carry an electrostatic latent image on its surface;

a liquid developer carrier which transports liquid developer toward a development position facing said image carrier while carrying said liquid developer on its surface, said liquid developer with charged toner dispersed in a carrier liquid; and

image forming means which applies a predetermined developing bias to said liquid developer carrier for causing said toner in said liquid developer carried on said liquid developer carrier to adhere to said image carrier, thereby developing said electrostatic latent image with said toner into a toner image,

wherein said image forming means forms a normal toner image under an image forming condition in which an adhesion amount of toner to said image carrier is substantially saturated relative to an increase of contrast potential,

wherein said liquid developer has a γ -saturation characteristic in which an adhesion amount of toner to said image carrier is substantially saturated relative to the increase in contrast potential.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein a toner density in said liquid developer is in the range from about 5wt% to about 40wt%.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (original): An image forming method, wherein a predetermined developing bias is applied to a liquid developer carrier carrying liquid developer with charged toner dispersed in a carrier liquid, thereby causing said toner in said liquid developer on said liquid developer carrier to adhere to an image carrier, whereby an electrostatic latent image on said image carrier is developed with said toner into a toner image, said method further comprising the steps of:

determining an image forming condition in which an adhesion amount of toner to said image carrier is substantially saturated relative to an increase in contrast potential; and forming a normal toner image under said image forming condition thus determined.

Claims 10-28 (canceled).